

KEEPING DOWNTOWN SEATTLE MOVING



Light Rail is on its way downtown

The City of Seattle is sensitive to the needs of businesses for short-term parking for service and customer access. Every effort is being made to balance that with the need to manage load zones and transit movement. While on-street parking spaces may need to be removed in some areas, a significant amount of off-street parking exists. A map of off-street parking can be obtained at <http://www.trueguides.com/downtown/downtown.html> or by calling (206) 684-ROAD (684-7623).

Business Assistance and Community Outreach

The City of Seattle is committed to working with property owners, businesses and those who use Third Avenue to keep them informed of upcoming work; changes in the street as work progresses; and ways to maintain customer access.

The affected load zones will remain for transit passenger loading only, at least until Link light rail is operating in 2009.

Once Link light rail is operational, we will also be working with the Downtown Seattle Association, Building Owners and Managers Association of Seattle King County, and the Downtown District Council to provide information to the downtown community about this project.

For more information about SDOT's work on Third Avenue, please contact:

George Frost, SDOT Project Manager, (206) 615-0786 or george.frost@seattle.gov or

Liz Rankin, SDOT Communications Manager, (206) 684-8540 or liz.rankin@seattle.gov

For general information about other SDOT projects and services, please call (206) 684-ROAD (684-7623).

Upcoming Changes to Third Avenue for Morning and Evening Rush Hour Transit Priority

Sound Transit construction will require major modifications to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to accommodate Link light rail, necessitating the Tunnel's closure for up to two years beginning in September 2005. During the closure, King County Metro Transit and Sound Transit buses that normally use the Tunnel will move to surface streets, primarily Third Avenue. There will also be a slight increase in bus volumes on both Second Avenue and Fourth Avenue. During this time, transit movement through downtown Seattle to the freeways will be the highest priority.

The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) will make traffic revisions to Third Avenue in the summer of 2005 to maintain transit speed and reliability as close to existing service as possible.

These changes include:

During the peak traffic periods (6-9 a.m. & 3-7 p.m.), Third Avenue will operate as a transit only arterial between Yesler Way and Stewart Street. During these peak traffic periods, general purpose vehicles will be permitted to turn right onto Third Avenue (no left turns on to Third Avenue). However, they must turn right again at the next available right turn. Seattle Police officers will be directing traffic at critical intersections to ensure efficient movement. During the off-peak traffic hours, these peak traffic period restrictions will not apply and Third Avenue will operate as it does today.

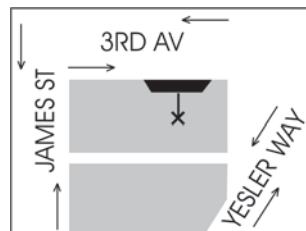
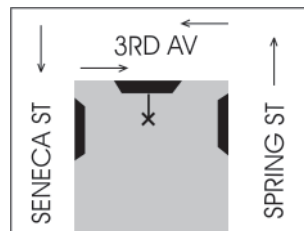
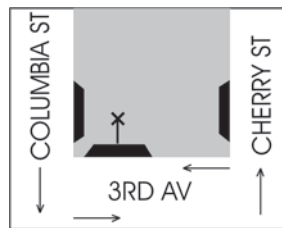
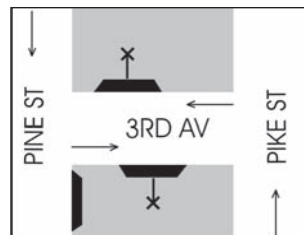
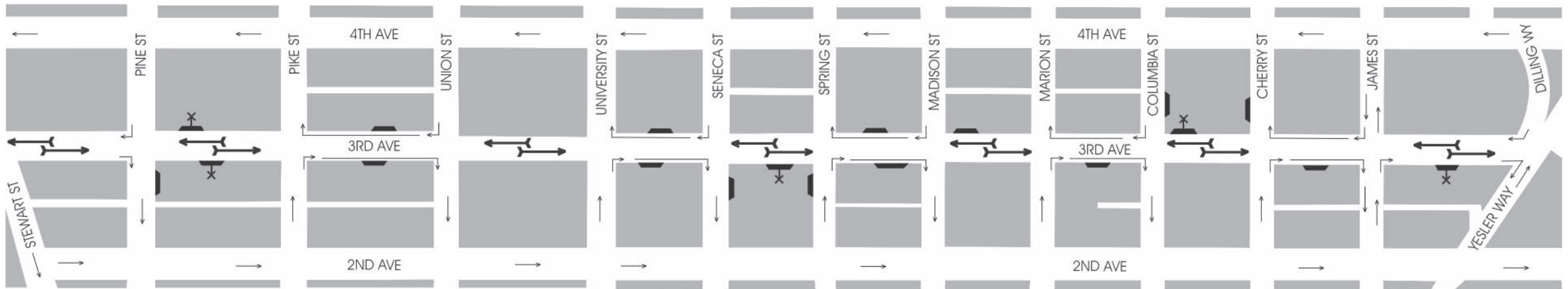


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Third Avenue Peak Period Restrictions

3RD AVENUE TRANSIT ONLY (6-9 A.M. and 3-7 P.M.)
from STEWART STREET to YESLER WAY



Load Zone Changes

In order to add or extend bus zones and maintain transit speed and reliability, SDOT will replace five pull-out commercial and/or passenger load zones on Third Avenue with sidewalk. Alternate load zones have been identified within one block of the affected zones.

The affected load zones will remain for transit passenger loading only, at least until Link light rail is up and running.

Once the rail system is operational, Third Avenue operations and these load zone locations will be re-evaluated.

